

Remarks

Claims 1-40 are pending. Claims 2 and 31 have been amended to require a recited condition. No new matter has been added.

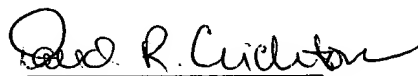
The Examiner rejects claims 2 and 31 under 35 U.S.C. 112(2) as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the intended subject matter. The Examiner objects in particular to the use of "capable". Applicants address this rejection by amending claims 2 and 31 to change "is capable of absorbing" to "absorbs". Applicants request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw his 112 rejection of claims 2 and 31.

The Examiner rejects claims 1-40 under 35 U.S.C. 112(1) as containing subject matter that is not described in sufficient detail to enable one to practice the invention. The Examiner objects to the property of "semi-permeable". Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

The "semi-permeable" feature is used in its conventional sense. As described on page 7 of the Specification, semi-permeable means that "the passage of small molecules across the barrier or membrane is possible but large molecules are prevented from crossing." The following line then further provide that "relatively small molecules such as oils and other hydrophobic liquids may pass across the semi-permeable barrier into the core, but that the polymeric core material is prevented from escaping." The means for forming the shell via interfacial condensation is described in the paragraph bridging pages 9 and 10. Additional reaction conditions are provided in the paragraph bridging pages 11 and 12. Preferred reactants are noted on the bottom of page 14 through the end of page 15. Applicants submit that the term is clear and adequately described in the Specification for one to understand and practice the full scope of the claimed invention.

Applicants submit that the present invention is now in condition for allowance. In the event that minor amendments will further prosecution, Applicants request that the Examiner contact the undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,



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Amended Claims with underlining and bracketing

2. (amended) A composition according to claim 1 in which the hydrophobic polymer contained in the core is ~~capable of absorbing~~ absorbs a hydrophobic liquid.

31. (amended) A process according to claim 10 in which the hydrophobic polymer core is ~~capable of absorbing~~ absorbs a hydrophobic liquid.